

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 18a: Election of the President of the European Commission

By : Mr Dick Roche, Member ; Mr Pat Carey and Mr Bobby McDonagh, Alternates

Article 18a: Election of the President of the European Commission

Delete the Article and replace with:

- 1. The President of the Commission shall be elected by the European Parliament and the national Parliaments of Member States. The European Parliament and the national Parliaments collectively shall have the same number of votes. All national Parliaments shall have an equal share of the national Parliaments' vote.**
 - 2. The election for the President of the Commission shall be held six weeks following the first meeting of the European Parliament after its election.**
 - 3. Candidates may be nominated by a minimum of 5 Member States. Nominations must be made to the European Council on or before a date to be designated.**
 - 4. All members of national Parliaments and of the European Parliament shall be eligible to cast a vote in favour of a single candidate. The votes of each Parliament shall be assigned to each candidate in proportion to the outcome in that Parliament.**
 - 5. If, when all votes have been received, a candidate has received more than 50% of the overall vote, that candidate shall be deemed elected. If no candidate has reached this threshold, the candidate with the fewest votes shall be eliminated and a further vote held on remaining candidates. This process shall be repeated, as necessary, until one candidate receives a simple majority.**
 - 6. The successful candidate shall be affirmed in office by the Council, acting by QMV.**
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Explanation (if any) :

As proposed in my paper (CONV 496/03), election of the President of the Commission in this way will help to bring greater transparency and openness, enhancing the President's perceived democratic legitimacy and authority. This will tend to strengthen both the President and the Commission in the fulfilment of their roles.

The process of election – a campaign period during which candidates can meet with national parliaments and with the European Parliament, and the casting of votes on a single day – offers a unique opportunity to create a greater sense of political interest and to bring the representatives of the peoples of Europe together with a common purpose and would create a sense of occasion. It would also allow candidates for the post to hear at first hand the concerns and aspirations of the people of Europe.